

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1 and 3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by *Asai* (U.S. Patent No. 5,593,710).

The Examiner is thanked for indicating that claims 5, 7 and 8 are allowed.

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicants have canceled claims 1 and 3 without prejudice or disclaimer to place the instant application in clear condition for allowance.

All Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1 and 3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by *Asai*. Since claims 1 and 3 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 1 and 3 becomes moot. With no other rejection pending, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 5, 7 and 8 are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments to place the application in clear condition for allowance or, in the alternative, in better form for appeal. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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